Governments. Transfer of such grants to the implementing agencies were invariably delayed in almost all the States for a period ranging from 6-9 months affecting the progress of work adversely.

(iv) The quality of preparation of Detailed Project Reports was not up to the mark from a number of State which resulted in significant delays.

(v) There were delays in land acquisition in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(vi) Decision was taken by the Ministry not to release funds for Ganga Action Plan Phase II in Bihar because the operation and maintenance of assets created under Ganga Action Plan Phase II was not satisfactory.

As a result, a capacity of 634 million litres per day of sewage has been commissioned so far. The aforesaid bottlenecks have now been resolved and the Plan is now targetted to be completed by 2005. Thus the impact of the Action Plan on the improvement of water quality of rivers and achievement of objectives can be expected only after completion of the Plan.

Sample testing of Sangam water

240. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th January, 2001 under the caption, "How safe is holy water of Sangam";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any sample testing of the water from Sangam has been carried at by the Central Pollution Control Board or any other Government agency;

(d) if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what specific steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to designated best use criteria of the Central Pollution Control Board for rivers, the desired water quality of Ganga in its stretch from Hardwar to Dakshineshwar, including at Sangam, should be 'outdoor bathing class' and not drinking class, as contested in the newsitem.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board carry out water quality monitoring at Sangam. Besides this, a through Pollution Control Research Institute, Hardwar, for assessing the water quality during Kumbh Mela on mass bathing days was also instituted. The water quality monitoring results during Kumbh marginally exceed the prescribed standards in terms of Biochemical Oxygen demand and fecal coliform levels, which are attributed to intensive mass bathing during the Mela.

(e) Emergency works costing Rs. 5.38 crores were taken up to divert 90 million litres per day of sewage Salori Nalla, Ghaghar Nalla and Mori Gate Nalla outfalling into rivers Yamuna and Ganga at Allahabad. These works were completed just before the start of Kumbh. Industries discharging waste water directly or indirectly into river Ganga were directed to restrain from discharging waste water.

Yamuna Action Plan

241. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint inspection by Central Pollution Control Board, the statutory environmental watchdog, and a public health body associated with Urban Development Ministry has confirmed that 1.3 billion litres of dirt flows into the Yamuna every day;